



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ALLEGED GANG MEMBER INDICTED FOR THREE MURDERS, DRUG TRAFFICKING, FIREARMS VIOLATIONS

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that an alleged member of the 51st Street Crips was indicted by a federal grand jury today for three murders, as well as a conspiracy to distribute crack cocaine, ecstasy, PCP, marijuana and valium that included additional shootings and firearms violations.

Steve L. “Moody” Wright, 21, of Kansas City, Mo., was charged in a 17-count second superseding indictment returned by a federal grand jury in Kansas City. Today’s indictment replaces a superseding indictment returned on Oct. 8, 2003, and includes additional charges against **Wright** for the murders as well as other narcotics and firearms violations.

Today’s indictment alleges that **Wright** and a number of co-conspirators (who are not charged in this indictment), operating as a street gang known as the 51st Street Crips, repeatedly engaged in illegal drug trafficking and possessed firearms in order to protect their drug supplies and the profits of their drug sales. **Wright** and co-conspirators engaged in turf wars with rival groups over areas in which drugs were illegally sold, according to the indictment, and firearms were also used in armed robberies of other drug dealers in order to steal their supplies of illegal drugs, which were then sold by the conspirators. **Wright** and co-conspirators often stole vehicles, the indictment alleges, not only for transportation but to avoid identification and detection while involved in criminal activities.

Three counts of the federal indictment allege that **Wright** and co-conspirators used a firearm to murder three victims – twice in relation to a drug-trafficking crime, and once to prevent a victim from providing information to law enforcement authorities.

On June 14, 2000, the indictment alleges in Count Four, **Wright** fatally shot Hector Santos during the attempted possession of cocaine with intent to distribute (as alleged in Count Three of the indictment).

On June 29, 2001, the indictment alleges in Count Eleven, **Wright** fatally shot Alex Clark during the conspiracy to distribute controlled substances (as alleged in Count One of the indictment).

On Feb. 1, 2001, the indictment alleges in Count Seven, **Wright**, aiding and abetting two co-conspirators, killed Michael Birks with the intent to prevent Birks from providing information to law enforcement authorities about the commission of several offenses – including attempted possession of PCP with intent to distribute (as alleged in Count Five of the indictment), and the shootings of Anthony Conaway and Justin Hill (as alleged in Count Six of the indictment).

Count One of the federal indictment alleges that **Wright** participated in a conspiracy to distribute more than 50 grams of crack cocaine, ecstasy, marijuana, PCP and valium from Jan. 1, 1997, to Oct. 8, 2003.

In furtherance of that conspiracy, the indictment alleges four separate occasions when **Wright** (along with co-conspirators) shot and wounded other persons.

On June 13, 2000, **Wright** and others allegedly shot at Alex Clark and Roland Jordan at the intersection of 33rd and Chestnut in Kansas City. On July 18, 2000, **Wright** allegedly shot and wounded Thomas Simmons, an associate of a rival street gang. On March 5, 2001, **Wright** and a co-conspirator saw Marlon Brown at a Kansas City nightclub. In an effort to silence Brown as a potential witness against them in the shootings of Anthony Conaway and Justin Hall and in the murder of Michael Birks, the indictment alleges, the co-conspirator shot and wounded Brown and two companions. On April 8, 2001, **Wright** allegedly shot and wounded Kyle Williams near the Loma Vista Bowling Alley at 8756 Blue Ridge in Kansas City.

The remaining counts of the indictment charge **Wright** with nine counts related to illegal drug possession or distribution, two counts of shooting and wounding other persons in the commission of a drug trafficking crime and one count of possessing firearms in the commission of a drug trafficking crime.

Counts Two, Ten and Thirteen of the federal indictment allege that **Wright** (along with co-conspirators) was in possession of marijuana with intent to distribute on three separate occasions on March 1, 2000, April 17, 2001, and Oct. 3, 2001.

Count Three of the federal indictment alleges that **Wright** (along with a co-conspirator) attempted to possess, with intent to distribute, more than 500 grams of cocaine on June 14, 2000.

Count Five of the federal indictment alleges that **Wright** (along with co-conspirators) attempted to possess with intent to distribute more than 100 grams of PCP on Feb. 1, 2001.

Count Six of the federal indictment alleges that **Wright** (along with co-conspirators) shot and wounded Anthony Conaway and Justin Hill during the commission of the drug-trafficking crime alleged in Count Five.

Count Eight of the federal indictment alleges that **Wright** (along with co-conspirators) was in possession with intent to distribute methamphetamine on April 2, 2001.

Count Nine of the federal indictment alleges that **Wright** shot and wounded Reymundo Gonzalez during the commission of the drug-trafficking crime alleged in Count Eight.

Count Twelve of the federal indictment alleges that **Wright** (along with co-conspirators) was in possession with intent to distribute more than five grams of crack cocaine on Oct. 3, 2001.

Count Fourteen of the federal indictment allege that **Wright** (along with co-conspirators) was in possession with intent to distribute ecstasy on Oct. 3, 2001.

Count Fifteen of the federal indictment alleges that **Wright** (along with co-conspirators) was in possession of firearms during the commission of the drug-trafficking offenses alleged in the indictment.

Count Sixteen of the indictment alleges that **Wright** distributed more than 50 grams of crack cocaine to a co-conspirator on Nov. 19, 2002.

Count Seventeen of the federal indictment is a forfeiture count, which would require **Wright** to forfeit to the government any property derived from the proceeds of the violations alleged in the indictment, including \$33,350.

Graves cautioned that the charges contained in the indictments are simply accusations, and not evidence of guilt. Evidence supporting the charges must be presented to a federal trial jury, whose duty is to determine guilt or innocence.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Charles E. Ambrose, Jr., and David Ketchmark. It was investigated by the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

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